

CHRISTIAN SECRETARY.

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"WHAT THOU SEEST, WRITE—AND SEND UNTO THE—CHURCHES."

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HARTFORD, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1834.

WHOLE No. 671.

TWENTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

Monday, December 1, 1834.

This day commenced, at the Capitol, in the city of Washington, the second session of the Twenty-third Congress.

At 12 o'clock, the Senate was called to order by the Vice President of the U. States, Hon. Martin Van Buren. A quorum was present in both Houses. On Tuesday, the President's Message was delivered.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate,
and House of Representatives:

In performing my duty at the opening of your present session, it gives me pleasure to congratulate you again upon the prosperous condition of our beloved country. Divine Providence has favored us with general health, with rich rewards in the fields of agriculture and in every branch of labor, and with peace to cultivate and extend the various resources which employ the virtue and enterprise of our citizens. Let us trust that in surveying a scene so flattering to our free institutions, our joint deliberations to preserve them may be crowned with success.

Our foreign relations continue, with but few exceptions, to maintain the favorable aspect which they bore in my last annual message, and promise to extend those advantages which the principles that regulate our intercourse with other nations are so well calculated to secure.

The question of the northern boundary is still pending with Great Britain, and the proposition made in accordance with the resolution of the Senate for the establishment of a line according to the treaty of 1783, has not been accepted by that government. Believing that every disposition is felt on both sides, to adjust this perplexing question to the satisfaction of all the parties interested in it, the hope is yet indulged that it may be effected on the basis of that proposition.

With the governments of Austria, Russia, Prussia, Holland, Sweden and Denmark, the best understanding exists. Commerce, with all, is fostered and protected by reciprocal good will, under the sanction of liberal conventional or legal provisions.

In the midst of her internal difficulties, the Queen of Spain has ratified the Convention for the payment of the claims of our citizens arising since 1819. It is in the course of execution on her part, and a copy of it is now laid before you for such legislation as may be found necessary to enable those interested to derive the benefits of it.

Yielding to the force of circumstances, and to the wise counsels of time and experience, that power has many reasons to regret to occupy the unusual position in which she stood to the new governments established in this hemisphere. I have the great satisfaction of stating to you that in preparing the way for the restoration of the same ancestors, who are allied by common interests, profess the same religion, and speak the same language, the United States have been actively instrumental. Our efforts to effect this good work, will be persevered in while they are deemed useful to the parties, and our entire disinterestedness continues to be felt and understood. The act of Congress to counteract the discriminating duties, levied to the prejudice of our navigation, in Cuba and Porto Rico, has been transmitted to the Minister of the United States at Madrid, to be communicated to the Government of the Queen. No intelligence of its receipt has yet reached the Department of State. If the present condition of the country permits the Government to make a careful and enlarged examination of the true interests of these important portions of its dominions, no doubt is entertained that their future intercourse with the United States will be placed upon a more just and liberal basis.

The Florida archives have not yet been selected and delivered. Recent orders have been sent to the agent of the United States at Havana, to return with all that he can obtain, so that they may be in Washington before the session of the Supreme Court, to be used in the legal questions then pending to which the Government is a party.

The first instalment due under the convention of indemnity with the King of the Two Sicilies, has been duly received, and an offer has been made to extinguish the whole by a prompt payment—an offer I did not consider myself authorized to accept, as the indemnification provided is the exclusive property of individual citizens of the United States.

The original adjustment of our claims, and the anxiety displayed to fulfil at once the stipulations made for the payment of them, are highly honorable to the government of the Two Sicilies. When it is recollected that they were the result of the injustice of an intrusive power, temporarily dominant in its territory, a repugnance to acknowledge and to pay which would have been neither unnatural nor unexpected, the circumstances cannot fail to exalt its character for justice and good faith in the eyes of all nations.

The Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the United States and Belgium, brought to your notice in my last annual message, as sanctioned by the Senate, but the ratifications of which had not been exchanged, owing to a delay in its reception, at Brussels, and a subsequent absence of the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been, after mature deliberations, finally disavowed by that government as inconsistent with the powers, and instructions given to the minister who negotiated it.

The disavowal was entirely unexpected, as the liberal principles embodied in the convention, and which form the ground-work of the objections to it, were perfectly satisfactory to the Belgian representative, and were supposed to be not only within the powers granted, but expressly conformable to the instructions given to him. An offer, not yet accepted, has been made by Belgium to renew negotiations for a treaty less liberal in

its provisions, on questions of general maritime law.

Our newly established relations with the Sublime Porte, promises to be useful to our commerce, and satisfactory in every respect to this government. Our intercourse with the Barbary Powers continues without important change, except that the present political state of Algiers has induced me to terminate the residence there of a consular agent, and to substitute an ordinary consulate, to remain so long as the place continues in the possession of France. Our first treaty with one of these powers—the Emperor of Morocco—was formed in 1786, and was limited to fifty years. That period has almost expired. I shall take measures to renew it with the greater satisfaction, as its stipulations are just and liberal, and have been, with mutual fidelity and reciprocal advantage, scrupulously fulfilled.

The Government of Mexico made known in December last, the appointment of Commissioners and a surveyor, on its part, to run, in conjunction with ours, the boundary line between its territories and the United States, and excused the delay for the reasons anticipated—the prevalence of civil war. The Commissioners and surveyors not having met within the time stipulated by the treaty, a new arrangement became necessary, and our Charge d'Affaires was instructed, in January last, to negotiate, in Mexico, an article additional to the pre-existing treaty. This instruction was acknowledged, and no difficulty was apprehended in the accomplishment of that object. By information just received, that additional article to the treaty will be obtained, and transmitted to this country, as soon as it can receive the ratification of the Mexican Congress.

The re-union of the three States of New Grenada, Venezuela, and Ecuador, forming the Republic of Colombia, seems every day to become more probable. The Commissioners of the two first are understood to be now negotiating a just division of the obligations contracted by them when united under one government. The civil war in Ecuador, it is believed, has prevented even the appointment of a Commissioner on its part.

I propose, at an early day, to submit in the proper form, the appointment of a diplomatic agent to Venezuela. The importance of the commerce of that country to the United States, and the large claims of our citizens upon the government, arising before and since the division of Colombia, rendering it, in my judgment, improper longer to delay this step.

It becomes my unpleasant duty to inform you of our foreign relations, does not include those with France at this time. It is not possible that any Government and people could be more sincerely desirous of conciliating a just and friendly intercourse with another nation, than are those of the United States with their ancient ally and friend.

This disposition is founded as well on the most grateful and honorable recollections associated with our struggle for independence, as upon a well grounded conviction that it is consonant with the true policy of both. The people of the United States could not, therefore, see without the deepest regret, even a temporary interruption of the friendly relations between the two countries—a regret which would, I am sure, be greatly aggravated if there should turn out to be any reasonable ground for attributing such a result to any act of omission or commission on our part. I derive, therefore, the highest satisfaction from being able to assure you that the whole course of this Government has been characterized by a spirit so conciliatory and forbearing as to make it impossible that our justice and moderation should be questioned, whatever may be the consequences of a longer perseverance on the part of the French Government in her omission to satisfy the connected claims of our citizens.

The history of the accumulated and unprovoked aggressions upon our commerce, committed by authority of the existing governments of France, between the years 1800 and 1817, has been rendered too painfully familiar to Americans to make its repetition either necessary or desirable. It will be sufficient here to remark, that there has, for many years, been scarcely a single administration of the French Government by whom the justice and legality of the claims of our citizens to indemnity, were not, to a very considerable extent, admitted; and yet near a quarter of a century has been wasted in ineffectual negotiations to secure it.

Deeply sensible of the injurious effects resulting from this state of things upon the interests and character of both nations, I regarded it as among my first duties to cause one more effort to be made to satisfy France, that a just and liberal settlement of our claims was as well due to her own honor as to their incontestable validity. The negotiation for this purpose was commenced with the late Government of France, and was prosecuted with such success, as to leave no reasonable ground to doubt, that a settlement of a character quite as liberal as that which was subsequently made, would have been effected, had not the revolution, by which the negotiation was cut off, taken place.

The discussions were resumed with the present government, and the result showed, that an event by which the two governments were made to approach each other so much nearer in their political principles, and by which the motives for the most liberal and friendly intercourse were so greatly multiplied, could exercise no other than a salutary influence upon the negotiation. After the most deliberate and thorough examination of the whole subject, a treaty between the two Governments was concluded and signed at Paris on the 4th of July, 1831, by which it was stipulated that "the French Government, in order to liberate itself from all the reclamations preferred against it by

the citizens of the United States, for unlawful seizures, captures, sequestrations, confiscations, or destruction of their vessels, cargoes, or other property, engages to pay a sum of twenty-five millions of francs to the United States, who shall distribute it among those entitled, in the manner and according to the rules it shall determine;" and it was also stipulated on the part of the French Government, that this twenty-five million of francs should "be paid at Paris in six annual instalments of four millions one hundred and sixty-six thousand six hundred and sixty-six francs and sixty-six centimes each, into the hands of such persons as shall be authorized by the Government of the United States to receive it." The first instalment to be paid "at the expiration of one year next following the exchange of the ratifications of this convention, and the others at successive intervals of a year, one after another, till the whole should be paid. To the amount of each of the said instalments shall be added interest at four per centum thereupon, as upon the other instalments then remaining unpaid, the said interest to be computed from the day of the exchange of the ratifications of this convention."

It was also stipulated on the part of the United States, for the purpose of being liberated from all the reclamations presented by France on behalf of its citizens, that the sum of one million five hundred thousand francs should be paid to the Government of France, in six annual instalments, to be deducted out of the annual sums which France had agreed to pay, interest thereupon being in like manner computed from the day of the exchange of the ratifications. In addition to this stipulation, important advantages were secured to France by the following article:

"The wines of France, from and after the exchange of the ratifications of the present Convention, shall be admitted to consumption in the States of the Union, at duties which shall not exceed the following rates by the gallon, (such as present for wines in the United States,) to wit: six cents for red wines in casks; ten cents for white wines in casks; and twenty-two cents for wines of all sorts in bottles. The proportions existing between the duties on French wines thus reduced, and the general rates of the tariff which went into operation the first January, 1829, shall be maintained, in case the Government of the United States should think proper to diminish those general rates in a new tariff."

In consideration of this stipulation, which shall be binding on the United States for ten years, the French Government abandons the reclamations which it had formed in relation to the *St. Pierre* article of the *Treaty of Amity*, to establish on the *long staple* cottons of the United States, which, after the exchange of the ratifications of the present Convention, shall be brought directly thence to France by the vessels of the United States, or by French vessels, the same duties as on *short staple* cottons.

The treaty was duly ratified in the manner prescribed by the constitutions of both countries, and the ratifications were exchanged at the city of Washington on the 20th of February, 1832. On account of its commercial stipulations it was, in five days thereafter laid before the Congress of the United States, which proceeded to enact such laws favorable to the commerce of France as were necessary to carry into full execution; and France has, from that period to the present, been in the unrestricted enjoyment of the valuable privileges that were thus secured to her.

The faith of the French nation having been thus solemnly pledged, through its constitutional organ, for the liquidation and ultimate payment of the long deferred claims of our citizens, and for the adjustment of other points of great and reciprocal benefit to both countries, and the United States having with fidelity and promptitude by which their conduct will, I trust, be always characterized, done every thing that was necessary to carry the treaty into full effect on their part, counted with the most perfect confidence, on equal fidelity and promptitude on the part of the French Government. In this reasonable expectation we have been disappointed.

No legislative provision has been made by France for the execution of the treaty, either as it respects the indemnity to be paid, or the commercial benefits to be secured to the United States, and the relations between the United States and that power, in consequence of the non-compliance with the treaty, are placed in a situation threatening to interrupt the good understanding which has so long and so happily existed between the two nations.

Not only has the French Government been thus wanting in the performance of the stipulations it has so solemnly entered into with the United States, but its omissions have been marked by circumstances which would seem to leave us without satisfactory evidence, that such performance will certainly take place at a future period. Advice of the exchange of ratifications reached Paris prior to the 8th of April, 1832. The French Chambers were then sitting and continued in session until the 21st of that month, and although one instalment of the indemnity was payable on the 20th of February, 1833, one year after the exchange of ratifications, no application was made to the Chambers for the required appropriation, and in consequence of no appropriation having then been made, the draft of the United States Government for that instalment was dishonored by the Minister of France, and the United States thereby involved in much controversy. The next session of the Chambers commenced on the 19th November, 1832, and continued until the 26th April, 1833. Notwithstanding the omission to pay the first instalment, had been made the subject of earnest remonstrance on our part, the treaty with the United States, and a bill making the necessary appropriations to execute it, were not laid before the Chamber of Deputies until the 6th of April, nearly five months after its meeting, and only nineteen days before the close of the session. The bill was read and referred to a committee, but there was no further action upon it. The next session of the Chambers commenced on the 26th of April, 1833, and continued until the 30th of June following.

A new bill was introduced on the 11th of June, but nothing important was done in relation to it during the session. In the month of April, 1834, nearly three years after the signature of the treaty, that final action of the French Chambers upon the bill to carry the treaty into effect was obtained, and resulted in a refusal of the necessary appropriations. The avowed grounds upon which the bill was rejected, are to be found in the published debates of that body, and no observations of mine can be necessary to satisfy

Congress of their utter insufficiency. Although the gross amount of the claims of our citizens is probably greater than will be ultimately allowed by the Commissioners, sufficient is nevertheless shown, to render it absolutely certain that the indemnity falls far short of the actual amount of our just claims, independently of the question of damages and interest for the detention. That the settlement involved a sacrifice in this respect was well known at the time—a sacrifice which was cheerfully accepted by the French Government, in consideration of the different branches of the Federal Government, whose action upon the treaty was required, from a sincere desire to avoid further collision upon this old and disturbing subject, and in the confident expectation that the general relations between the two countries would be improved thereby.

The refusal to vote the appropriation, it is news of which was received from Mr. Minister in Paris, about the 15th day of May last, might have been considered the final determination of the French Government not to execute the stipulations of the treaty, and would have justified an immediate communication of the facts to Congress, with a recommendation of such ultimate measures as the interest and honor of the United States might seem to require. But with the news of the refusal of the Chambers to make the appropriation, were conveyed the regrets of the King, and a declaration that a national vessel should be forthwith sent out, with instructions to the French Minister to give the most ample explanations of the past, and the strongest assurances for the future. A short passage of the promised despatch vessel arrived. The pledges by the French Minister, upon receipt of his instructions, were, that as soon after the election of the new members as the charter would permit, the legislative authorities of France should be called together, and the proposition for an appropriation laid before them; that all the constitutional powers of the King and his Cabinet should be exerted to accomplish the object; and that the result should be laid before Congress at the earliest opportunity.

Relying upon these pledges, and not doubting that the acknowledged justice of our claims, the promised exertions of the King and his Cabinet, and, above all, that sacred regard for the national honor which the French Government has been so distinguished to secure an early execution of the treaty in all its parts, I did not deem it necessary to call the attention of Congress to the subject at the last session.

I regret to say, that the pledges made through the Minister of France, have not been fulfilled. The new Chambers met on the 31st July last, and although the subject of fulfilling the treaty was alluded to in the speech from the throne, no attempt was made by the King or his Cabinet to procure an appropriation to carry it into execution. The reasons assigned, although they might be considered sufficient in an ordinary case, are not consistent with the expectations founded upon the assurances given here, for there is no constitutional obstacle to entering into legislative business, at the first meeting of the Chambers. The point, however, that the result of their deliberations might be communicated to us, before the meeting of Congress, was not pursued, and the bill for the appropriation was not introduced, so late that their decision can scarcely be made known to the present Congress, prior to its dissolution. To avoid this delay, our Minister in Paris, in virtue of the assurance given by the French Minister in the United States, strongly urged the convening of the Chambers at an earlier place, but without success. It is proper to remark, however, that this refusal has been accompanied with the most positive assurance, on the part of the Executive Government of France, of its intention to press the appropriation at the ensuing session of the Chambers.

The executive branch of this government has, as matters stand, exhausted all the authority upon the subject with which it is invested, and which it had any reason to believe could be beneficially employed.

The act of requiring in the refusal to execute the treaty will let, I am confident, for a new one entertained by my branch of the government; and further negotiation is equally out of the question.

If it shall be the pleasure of Congress to await the further action of the Chambers at this session, probably be required at your hands. But if, from the original delay in asking for an appropriation, from the omission to bring the subject before the Chambers at their last session, and from the fact that, including the session, there have been five different recesses when the appropriation might have been made, and from the delay in conveying the Chambers until some weeks after the meeting of Congress, it was well known that a communication of the whole subject to Congress at the last session was prevented by assurance that it should be disposed of before its present meeting, you should feel yourselves constrained to doubt whether it is the intention of the French Government in all its branches to carry the treaty into effect, and think that such measures as the occasion may be deemed to call for, should be now adopted, the important question arises what those measures shall be.

Our institutions are essentially pacific. Peace and friendly intercourse with all nations, are as much the desire of our government as they are of the people. But these objects are not to be permanently secured, by surrendering the rights of our citizens, or permitting solemn treaties for their indemnity in cases of flagrant wrong, to be abrogated or set aside.

It is undoubtedly in the power of Congress seriously to affect the agricultural and manufacturing interests of France, by the passage of laws relating to her trade with the United States. Her products, manufactures, and tonnage, may be subjected to heavy duties in our ports, or all commercial intercourse with her may be suspended. But there are powerful arguments to my mind, conclusive objections to this mode of proceeding. We cannot embarrass or cut off the trade of France, without, at the same time, in some degree, embarrassing or cutting off our own trade. The injury of such a warfare must, I think, be equally unequal, upon our citizens, and could not but impede the progress of the Government, and weaken that united sentiment in support of the rights and honor of the nation which must now pervade every bosom.

Nor is it impossible that such a course of legislation would introduce, once more, into the national councils, those disturbing questions in relation to the tariff of duties which have been so recently put to rest. Besides, by every measure adopted by the Government of the United States with the view of injuring France, the clear perception of right which will be given to our people, and the respect and people of all other nations, even of France herself, to pronounce our quarrel just, will be obscured, and the support rendered to us in a final resort to more decisive measures, will be more limited and equivocal. There is but one point in the controversy, upon which the whole civilized world must pronounce France to be in the wrong. We insist that she shall pay us a sum of money, which she has acknowledged to be due; and of the justice of this demand, there can be but one opinion among men.

kind. True policy seems to dictate that the question at issue should be kept thus disencumbered, and that not the slightest pretence should be given to France to persist in her refusal to make payment, by any act on our part affecting the interest of her people. The question should be left as it now is, in such an attitude that when I raise before her treaty stipulations, all controversy will be at an end.

It is my conviction, that the United States ought to insist on a prompt execution of the treaty, and in case it is refused, on longer delayed, take redress into their own hands. After the delay on the part of France of a quarter of a century in acknowledging three claims by treaty, it is not to be tolerated that another quarter of a century is to be wasted in negotiating about the payment. The laws of nations provide a remedy for such occasions. It is a well settled principle of the international code, that where one nation owes another a liquidated debt, which it refuses or neglects to pay, the aggrieved party may seize on the property belonging to the other, its citizens or subjects, sufficient to pay the debt, without giving just cause of war. This remedy has been repeatedly resorted to, and recently by France herself, towards Portugal, under circumstances less questionable.

The time at which resort should be had to this, or any other mode of redress, is a point to be decided by Congress. If an appropriation shall not be made by the French Chambers at their next session, it may justly be concluded that the Government of France has finally determined to disregard its own solemn undertaking, and refuse to pay an acknowledged debt. In that event, every day's delay on our part will be a stain upon our national honor, as well as a denial of justice to our injured citizens. Prompt measures, when the refusal of France shall be complete, will not only be most honorable and just, but will have the best effect upon our national character.

Since France, in violation of the pledges given through her minister here, has delayed that final action so long that her decision will not probably be known in time to be communicated to this Congress, I deem it my duty to lay before you, as a preliminary measure, a declaration that nothing is intended by us. The ought to look upon it as the evidence only of an indefinite determination on the part of the United States, to insist on their rights. That law cannot be doing only what it is bound to do, and that it will be just, will be able to spare the United States the necessity of taking redress in their own hands, and save the property of French citizens from seizure and sequestration which American citizens so long endured without redress or relief. If she should continue to refuse that act of acknowledgment, and in violation of the law of nations, make reprisals on our part the occasion of hostilities against the United States, she would but add violence to injustice, and could not fail to expose herself to the just censure of civilized nations, and the judgments of Heaven.

Collision with France, to which she is so much inclined, she occupies in Europe in a position which is not less dangerous to our peace, than it is to her. It is a collision which, in the event where she is clearly in the wrong, the moral of liberal principles shall be in the end, the responsibility for that result, as well as every other, will rest on her own head.

Having submitted these considerations, it belongs to Congress to decide, whether, after what has taken place, it will still await the further action of the French Chambers, or now adopt such provisional measures as it may deem necessary and best adapted to protect the rights and maintain the honor of the United States. Whatever that decision may be, it will be faithfully enforced by the Executive, as far as he is authorized to do so.

According to the estimate of the Treasury Department, the revenue accruing from all sources, during the present year, will amount to twenty millions six hundred and seventy-four thousand seven hundred and seventy dollars, which with the balance remaining in the Treasury on the first of January last, of eleven millions seven hundred and two thousand five hundred and five dollars, produces an aggregate of thirty-two millions three hundred and ninety-seven thousand four hundred and twenty-two dollars. The total expenditure during the year for all objects, including the public debt is estimated at twenty-five millions five hundred and ninety thousand three hundred and ninety dollars, and twenty-seven thousand four hundred and twenty-two dollars. This balance, however, will be included about one million one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of what was heretofore reported by the Department as not due.

Free from public debt, at peace with all the world, and with no complicated interests to consult in our intercourse with foreign powers, the present may be hailed as that epoch in our history the most favorable for the settlement of these claims in a judicious policy, which shall be best calculated to give stability to our Republic, and secure the blessings of freedom to our citizens. Among these principles, from our past experience it cannot be doubted, that simplicity in the character of the Federal Government, and a rigid economy in its administration, should be regarded as fundamental and sacred. All must be sensible that the existence of the public debt, by rendering taxation necessary for its extinguishment, has increased the difficulties which are inseparable from every exercise of the taxing power; and that it was, in this respect, a remote agent in producing those disturbing questions which grew out of the discussions relating to the tariff. If such has been the tendency of a debt incurred in the acquisition and maintenance of our national rights and liberties, the obligations of which all persons of the Union cheerfully acknowledge it must be obvious, that whatever is calculated to increase the burden of Government without necessity, must be fatal to all our hopes of preserving its true character.

While we are felicitating ourselves, therefore, upon the extinguishment of the national debt, and the prospects state of our finances, let us not be misled to deplore the means by which the revenue is to be raised, which is a just adaptation of the revenue to the expenditures that are consistent with a rigid economy, and an entire abstinence from all topics of legislation that are not clearly within the constitutional powers of the Government, and suggested by the welfare of the country.

Properly regarded, under such a policy, every diminution of the public burdens arising from taxation, gives to individual enterprise increased power and furnish to all the members of our happy Confederacy, new motives for patriotic affection and support. But above all, its most important effect will be found in its influence upon the character of the Government, by confining its action to those objects which will be sure to secure to it the attachment and support of our fellow citizens.

Circumstances make it my duty to call the attention of Congress to the Bank of the United States. Created for the convenience of the Government, that institution has become the scourge of the People. Its interference to postpone the payment of a portion of the national debt, that it might retain the public money appropriated for that

purpose, to strengthen it in a political contest—the extraordinary extension and contraction of its assets and liabilities—its exclusion of the public directors from a knowledge of its most important proceedings—the unlimited authority conferred on the President to expend its funds in hiring writers, and procuring the execution of printing, and the use made of that authority—the retention of the pension money and looks after the selection of new agents—the groundless claims to heavy damages, in consequence of the payment of the bill drawn on the French Government, have, through various channels, been laid before Congress. Immediately after the close of the last session, the Banks, through its President, announced its ability and readiness to abandon the system of unparliamentary conduct, and to pay the claims of the French Government, which it had practiced upon from the 1st of August, 1833, to the 10th of June, 1834, and to extend its accommodations to the community. The grounds assumed in this announcement, amounted to an acknowledgment that the institution had the virtue and firmness to fear the imputation, that the energies of our people should be thus frittered away in a wanton display of the power of the pen, and that at the close of the session, the Bank had been reduced to a state of insolvency. The community had been led to suppose, that its assistance, and that it had already found new auxiliaries; so that on the first of October last, the extraordinary receipts of the Bank, presented to a National Bank, were estimated at about six hundred and seventy thousand dollars, and that at the close of the session, the Bank had been reduced to a state of insolvency. The community had been led to suppose, that its assistance, and that it had already found new auxiliaries; so that on the first of October last, the extraordinary receipts of the Bank, presented to a National Bank, were estimated at about six hundred and seventy thousand dollars, and that at the close of the session, the Bank had been reduced to a state of insolvency.

To the needs and distresses brought on the country during the last session of Congress, has been added the disbursement of the dividends on the public stock, to the amount of one hundred and seventy thousand and forty-one dollars, under pretence of paying dividends, and interest, upon the proceeds of the sale.

This sum constituted a portion of the estimated revenues for the year 1834, upon which the appropriations made by Congress were based. It would as soon have been expected that our collectors would seize on the customs, or the receivers of our land offices on the moneys arising from the sale of public lands, under pretences of claims against the United States, as the Bank would have retained the dividends. Indeed, if the principle be established, that any one who chooses to set up a claim against the U. States, may, without authority of law, seize on the public moneys, there will remain no resource, but that our revenue will reach the Treasury, and that our property be assigned in the law. The paymasters of our army and the pursers of our navy, may, under like pretences, apply to their own use moneys appropriated to set in motion the public force, and in time of war leave the country without defence. This measure resorted to by the Bank is disorganizing and revolutionary, and if generally resorted to by private citizens in like cases, would fill the land with anarchy and violence.

It is a constitutional provision that "no money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in consequence of appropriation made by law." The palpable object of this provision is to prevent the expenditure of the public money for any purpose whatever, which shall not have been first approved by the Representatives of the people and the States in Congress assembled. It vests the power of declaring for what purposes the public money shall be expended, in the legislative department of the government, to the exclusion of the executive and judicial, and is not within the constitutional authority of any one of those departments to pay it away without law, or to sanction its payment. According to this plain constitutional provision, the claim of the Bank can never be paid without an appropriation by act of Congress. But the Bank has never asked for an appropriation. It attempts to defraud the community of the public money, and obtain payment without an act of Congress. Instead of awaiting an appropriation passed by both Houses, and approved by the President, it makes an appropriation for itself, and invites an appeal to the Judiciary to sanction it. That the money had not technically been paid into the Treasury, does not affect the principle intended to be established by the constitution. The Executive and Judiciary have as little right to appropriate and expend the public money without authority of law, before it is placed to the credit of the Treasury, as to take it from the Treasury. In the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury, and in his correspondence with the President of the Bank, and the opinion of the Attorney General accompanying it, you will find a further examination of the claims of the Bank, and the course it has pursued.

It seems due to the safety of the public funds remaining in that bank, and the honor of the American people, that measures be taken to separate the Government entirely from an institution so mischievous to the public property, and so regardless to the Constitution and laws. By transferring the public deposits, by appointing other Pension agents, as far as it had the power, by oring the discontinuance of the receipt of Bank checks in payment of the public dues after the 1st day of January next, the executive has exerted all its lawful authority to sever the connection between the Government and this faithless corporation.

The high-sounding career of this institution, imposed upon the constitutional functions of the Government, duties of the gravest and most imperative character—duties which they cannot avoid, and in which I trust there will be no inclination on the part of any of them to shrink. My own sense in them is most elevated, and my readiness to discharge those which may rightfully fall on me. To continue any business relations with the Bank of the United States, that may be avoided without a violation of the national faith, after that institution has set at open defiance the conceded right of the Government to examine its affairs, after it has done as it likes, to divide the public authority in other respects, and to bring it into disrepute at home and abroad; after it has attempted to defeat the clearly expressed will of the people, by turning against them the immense power intrusted to its hands, and by involving a country, otherwise peaceful, flourishing and happy, in dissension, (Concluded on the last page.)

REVIVALS.

From the N. H. Register.
LYME.

Extract of a letter from Rev. S. Coombs, dated Lyme, Nov. 18, 1834.

The good work continues in this place with increasing interest. Last Lord's day I had the pleasure of baptizing six willing converts which makes the whole number baptized since our protracted meeting—thirty six. We have visited the water side eight Sabbaths in succession; others will go forward soon. I never witnessed such attention to the subject of religion as is now seen throughout the town. Fifteen members of the old church have united with the new since last July; and on the first Sabbath of this month we commemorated the sufferings and death of our Lord, and ninety-four members of the church were present—whole number 128. Great harmony prevails among us.

Yours in the best of bonds,
S. COOMBS.

We learn that the protracted meeting held with the Baptist church in Pittsfield, was attended with a blessing; thirteen were baptized by Mr. Richardson, the 9th inst., and several others are expected to go forward soon.—ib.

From the Cross and Sap. Journal.

McGowan's, Henry co. Ten. Nov. 4, 1834.

Brother Stevens.—With grateful feelings to God for his unbounded mercy towards us, I sit down to communicate to you the pleasing intelligence that the work of grace mentioned in my last, is still going on in our country. I had the pleasure, on Sunday last, to baptize twenty-six; and several more were received which were not baptized. I have been a Baptist about 32 years, and half that time trying to break the bread of life among poor sinners, and have never seen any revival equal to the present. The work seems to be spreading, and I do hope it will become general over our country. Our congregations are so large, that in many instances, even at our night meetings, we are compelled to leave our meeting house and go out to the stand. Notwithstanding so many have professed to have been changed in heart, under the sweet influence of the Gospel, sent home by the Holy Spirit, the number of anxious does not seem to diminish.

York church, Sandusky co. O.—During the late session of the Convention, we received a letter from Elder Jacob Thierp, stating his desire from the Convention, notwithstanding his ardent wish to be present, and his wish that something might be done towards distributing Bibles, and preaching the gospel to the Catholic Swiss and Germans, who are coming in great numbers into the country. The letter gives a brief history of the York church, as follows:

"It was constituted on the last Lord's day of May, 1833, ever since which time, we have enjoyed a continual season of reformation. Our number then was 25; now about 60. Our increase has been nearly equal by baptism and by letter. I have baptized within a year, eleven young ladies; some of them quite young, and one under twelve."—Cross and Sap. Journal.

Jersey Settlement, N. C.—Under date Sept. 24th, James Wiseman writes, in the Baptist Interpreter, as follows:

"I met at Jersey meeting house, Davidson county, Tenn., there were twenty members who persevered; the meeting was not expected to hold more than three or four days; but held seven days and nights. It seems that the ancient promise of the Lord was made good; there were before the close of the meeting, twenty-six, hopefully brought to the knowledge of the truth; the work still continued; there were many wrought upon; some at home, on their beds, some while following their plough, and in other places and times. There appeared to be but very little noise, except some, when first delivered from the burden of sin, would speak as it were with new tongues. There are some brought in, of the age of sixty; from that down to eleven years, who give bright evidence of the conviction for, and the pardon of sin. There were at the first church meeting held after the camp-meeting, twenty-nine persons baptized; it has still continued ever since, until there has been added to the Baptist church at Jersey, one hundred and seventy-seven, making in all, 243.

There is, at this time, a considerable revival among several denominations—it appears the Lord is doing wonders in our country.

Lynn, Mass.—A letter from that place, dated October 15th, gives a brief account of a pleasing work of grace which has been in progress there, since a protracted meeting held in August last.—About fifty had indulged hope in the mercy of Christ, at that time, and thirty-one had been baptized in the fellowship of the church under the care of Rev. L. S. Bolles. This cheering news is dispensed by the unpleasant fact that the health of the pastor had sunk.—Ch. Watchman.

Michigan Territory.—Extracts from E. Loomis, to the Cor. Sec. of the A. B. H. M. Soc., dated Detroit, Sept. 30, 1834.

We have now in this territory, 30 Baptist churches, twelve of which have been gathered since I came here, one year ago. We have only 27 ministers of all grades. Three of them are unordained, one or two are floating, and may not stay here long, and most of them are farmers, and not more than four or five give themselves wholly to the work. And I must add, with 12 additional churches to see to, we have actually less ministerial help than we had one year ago. Ought these things to be? Are there not ministers at the east who ought to come into this territory, not to get farms, but to preach the gospel?

The time has arrived for me to make my quarterly returns. During my last quarter, I have traveled 1405 miles; preached 38 sermons; baptized 3; assisted in constituting 3 churches, and in the ordination of one minister; attended two associations, and one meeting of the Michigan Baptist Domestic Mission Society. I have preached less than usual for several seasons. I have found it necessary, in order to meet the Missionary Board, and associations, to travel more expeditiously, so that I could not get up many meetings. Another reason is, the harvest season has been followed by unusual sickness, so that it was difficult to collect a congregation on a week day; finally, I have shared the sickness myself.

Missionary Tract to every Family in Western Pennsylvania.—The members of the "Baptist Evangelical Society" of Jefferson College, Canonsburg, Pa., in connection with young men of the Theological Seminary at Allegheny Town, and others, have resolved to present a Missionary Tract, each year, for three years, to every family in West-

ern Pennsylvania. For the present, the second year, they have selected the *Horror of Heathenism*, No. 291, 54,000 of which, have been printed for their use, together with 7,500 of "True Believer Bountiful," in German, one half the amount being a grant from the Am. Tract Society.

The young gentlemen of the society of Inquiry, in Washington College, Pa., have also enlisted for extending the same work, in several adjacent counties of Western Virginia and Ohio; and 25,000 of the "Horror of Heathenism" have been printed for their use, one half the amount being likewise a grant from the Am. Tract Society.—Tract Mag.

Conversion of an Infidel.—We feel gratified to state, that a man of talent, formerly connected with the public discussions of the Family Wright party in this city, has recently been converted to God. He had been at one time, a Universalist preacher, and subsequently a decided, but secretly unalloyed disbeliever in divine revelation, and even the existence of Jehovah.

While in this state of mind, he was providentially called to hear Elder J. Middleton, pastor of the East Baptist church, preach on the downward course of inquiry. Some portions of the discourse were deeply impressed on his mind. He was led to ask again, solemnly, as in the days of his youth, "what shall I do to be saved?" These convictions were deepened, until he was brought back, altogether, from his guilty wanderings, and found peace in the pardoning mercy of his Redeemer. He is now numbered among the most humble and active members of the East Baptist Church.—B. p. Reps.

From the Wesleyan Meth. Magazine of Old England, for Oct.

We extract the excellent remarks below, from the "Annual Address of the Conference," to their brethren.

In Great Britain, the increase for the year is twelve thousand and nine; in Ireland, notwithstanding the difficulties and discouragements which our brethren there still labor, one thousand and two hundred and eleven; and in our Foreign Missions, two thousand five hundred and eighteen. The total annual increase is thus fifteen thousand, seven hundred and thirty-eight.

Since the last Conference, twenty-four Preachers have been removed from us by death; many of whom, however, had been previously ordained, by age or sickness, to desist from the active duties of the itinerancy. But, as they had testified in life, the Gospel of the grace of God, so did they experience its consolations in death, and thus they finished their course with joy. The vacancies thus occasioned, the Lord of the harvest has not failed to supply: ninety-two young men, properly recommended, have been accepted as candidates for ministerial service, a considerable number of whom, have received appointments to Circuits or Missions at the present Conference.

It is a singular and very delightful circumstance, that, during the sittings of the Conference, the day arrived, when the state of slavery in the British colonies, according to the decision of the Legislature, should forever cease. We congratulate you on this happy accomplishment of your ardent desires. The bondage of the negroes has now become a mere matter of past history, and no longer oppresses the servant, or demoralizes the master. We deeply regret the fact that there are yet States, professedly Christian, in which the sinfully degrading caste of color exists in its most repulsive form; but we are willing to cherish the hope that the example of Great Britain will be followed by every other nation, and that slavery, at least among all people, will be abolished.

On the subject of employing illiterate men in the ministry, Wesley was driven—was hasted out by the providence of God somewhat contrary to his own feelings. He was, however, all in favor of it, and was so to do different from what he would have done. It is well known that his mother told him in regard to a certain illiterate preacher that he was as much called of God to preach as he (Wesley) was; this, having awakened his attention, he went to hear the man preach, and then he bowed to God. Then arose a host of questions: "What an insult for Christ in the ministry! And oh, what an increase from so small a beginning! It was not possible for him to tell how large the increase really was. There were more than two thousand traveling preachers in America; how many in England, he did not know.

Experience—and experience has always shown us that when it becomes the doctrine that great learning is absolutely necessary for the ministry, it is a time of religious declension. And when we have given our men great learning they must have rich benefices, and splendid places to preach in, and they must have rich flouting dresses to put on when they ascend the pulpit—but alas, meanwhile the power is gone; and as the power is gone, the power goes down, all the divine mission is lost. And it is only when men decline in this divine mission that they want something else rather than the power of the spirit to lean upon. It is a solemn question whether as our numbers increase that our piety increase in proportion—Ah, what care we should take to elevate to the good old ways!

Yet it should be the earnest endeavor and struggle of the ministers to keep pace with the improvement of the people. There is all abroad throughout society a progressive increase of knowledge, at least the present and rising generation think that they know more than the old people. This progress should be kept pace with by the ministry. All ministers should be students—for the apostle told Timothy to study to show himself approved, &c.—so we must all study to approve ourselves, and study becomes us all.

I well recollect, said the Bishop, what Methodism was fifty years ago. And then but little anxiety was exhibited to examine candidates for the ministry in regard to their literary qualifications. We took them from every occupation and walk in life, and we were glad to receive any man who came forward to the work, who said he was called of God, and gave proof of it to us—and we were glad to receive them. I was yesterday, said he, present at the examination of candidates for admission into full connection, and I must say I was highly delighted. Never let down the standard of examination and attainment which you have erected.—There were three points in the examination with which I was particularly pleased; the first and smallest was the injunction upon the young preachers to improve their minds; the 2d was that they were told that the standard of a preacher's talents and usefulness was laid the two first years of his ministerial life, and on this account they were told to raise a high standard and to form themselves for high purposes after an exalted model; the 3d point was, that holiness to the Lord was presented to them as the great and absorbing qualification for the ministry. It was certainly a solemn subject of inquiry whether this point was as much regarded as formerly, and whether the standard of holiness was as high as it used to be.

There were many new notions afloat. For his part, the bishop said, he did not think that Methodism had any need of the new fangled insinuations so much talked of lately, called—(he Bishop could not recollect the name, and a member of conference prompted him by the words "Theological Seminaries.") Oh yes, said he, *Theological Seminaries*—those new fashioned schools to train out ministers. He would say to Methodists—Do not go back to those denominations from whom

stand exactly what is meant, and thereby enable them to their circulars and addresses, to adopt the English manner of arranging words to convey ideas, we think he would render a real service to the cause of religion, and might do much to correct a style already vitiated, and growing worse with a rapidity proportioned to the frequency of occasions for such addresses.

These remarks were suggested by what preceded, in reference to either the accession of numbers to the Methodist, the termination of slavery, or the education of junior preachers. Their sentiments on that subject, are so precisely those of the Baptists, according to our former mode of expression, that we recommend them to the imitation of our brethren now.

From the Western Methodist.

BISHOP MCKENDREE'S ADDRESS AT NASHVILLE.

Bishop Andrew took the chair, and declared the Conference to be organized for business.

Bishop McKendree rose and said, in substance, that his acquaintance with the preachers was not now so great as formerly—yet his interest in their prosperity and the prosperity of the church with which they were connected was as deep as ever.—He felt as though he would wish to say something in regard to the important business before the Conference. When he looked back to the origin of Christianity, he found that Divine Wisdom selected and sent forth illiterate men as agents to propagate the blessings of the Gospel; and ever since, although providence had from time to time raised up learned men sufficient for all the purposes to which learning may be applied, to vindicate by learned research and authorities the authenticity of the scriptures, &c. the greater part of the labor had all along been done by comparatively illiterate men. Did it seem strange to some that illiterate men would dare to come forward and take such a work upon them? But let not such forget that the power of God's Spirit was promised to the preacher to the end of the world. It was this which made even ignorant men to hold their heads up unappalled, and made their faces shine. To some extent learning has the same effect. A learned man who has perfect command of his subject, knows his own powers, may hold up his head with confidence and self-possession while he acquits himself with credit to his profession and to himself. We have thus before us two principles to aid us in the public exercise of our ministry—the one the power of God's spirit; the other, the aids of human learning; but oh, how far superior is the former to the latter! Learning in its mightiest efforts can rise only to an inferiority of effect when contrasted with the power of godliness.

The Bishop laid down the principle that more glory rebounded to God from efforts made by illiterate men than those made by learned, and to prove this, gave the instance of a miracle being done by unlearned disciples, and the multitude gave the glory to God, seeing that the men who had done it were unlearned; while, when Paul, a known learned man, reasoned with astonishing power before Festus, the king instead of inscribing glory to God said that much learning had made Paul mad. Thus the evidences of religion and the power of the Gospel were much clearer when exhibited in the cases of ignorant men than when the same fruits are shown forth by men of learning. Well, then, said the Bishop, let the Lord make use of illiterate men!

On the subject of employing illiterate men in the ministry, Wesley was driven—was hasted out by the providence of God somewhat contrary to his own feelings. He was, however, all in favor of it, and was so to do different from what he would have done. It is well known that his mother told him in regard to a certain illiterate preacher that he was as much called of God to preach as he (Wesley) was; this, having awakened his attention, he went to hear the man preach, and then he bowed to God. Then arose a host of questions: "What an insult for Christ in the ministry! And oh, what an increase from so small a beginning! It was not possible for him to tell how large the increase really was. There were more than two thousand traveling preachers in America; how many in England, he did not know.

Experience—and experience has always shown us that when it becomes the doctrine that great learning is absolutely necessary for the ministry, it is a time of religious declension. And when we have given our men great learning they must have rich benefices, and splendid places to preach in, and they must have rich flouting dresses to put on when they ascend the pulpit—but alas, meanwhile the power is gone; and as the power is gone, the power goes down, all the divine mission is lost. And it is only when men decline in this divine mission that they want something else rather than the power of the spirit to lean upon. It is a solemn question whether as our numbers increase that our piety increase in proportion—Ah, what care we should take to elevate to the good old ways!

Yet it should be the earnest endeavor and struggle of the ministers to keep pace with the improvement of the people. There is all abroad throughout society a progressive increase of knowledge, at least the present and rising generation think that they know more than the old people. This progress should be kept pace with by the ministry. All ministers should be students—for the apostle told Timothy to study to show himself approved, &c.—so we must all study to approve ourselves, and study becomes us all.

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you have broken away and separated yourselves, to follow their customs and adopt or copy their institutions; your own course is better. By keeping on our own peculiar way we may provoke others to imitate us rather than put ourselves out of our tried course to imitate them. Indeed, in many of our doctrines and practices, the people from among whom the Methodists first separated themselves imitate us and borrow from us now, so that in many things the likeness is quite strong. Oh, that this Conference might rise superior to all in the grand work of promoting the glory of God! In my opinion Theological Seminaries would be hurtful and destructive to the itinerancy.

The Bishop concluded by breathing out a prayer that the Lord would crown the Conference with his gracious blessing and protection.

From the Philadelphian.

DESECRATION vs. CONSECRATION.

The Roman Catholic Cathedral is the most splendid edifice in St. Louis, Missouri, and when completed, and the large bells which are provided are rung, it will be considered quite a public improvement. The cost of it, including painting and ornaments, cannot fall much short of \$65,000. Last Sabbath, the imposing ceremony of consecration was performed; and I am informed by one present, that some of the changes of the Bishops' dresses were quite splendid. There were five Bishops, and a great number of inferior officers of their church present. At sunrise, the guard of honor, consisting of twelve men, "armed and equipped as the law directs," detailed from the volunteer companies of our city, escorted the Bishops and Priests to the new cathedral, where the business of consecration commenced. The minutiae of the ceremonies were so ridiculous I shall not describe them. One of the guard of honor was placed as a sentinel by the altar, and relieved every 15 minutes, throughout the day, until about 4 o'clock. Three pieces of ordnance were borrowed of the United States, and in utter disregard of the Holy Sabbath, and worshipping assemblies, were discharged at intervals throughout the day. The United States land of martial music was in attendance, and the different volunteer companies of our city, armed and in uniform, assisted in the ceremonies, and in one instance, the music with colors, marched by, under the windows of the Second Presbyterian Church, while Dr. Nelson was preaching, and for a time interrupted the worship of God. There was an immense congregation of boys around the cathedral, and occasionally, as the guns were fired, they would raise a shout, and cry out that the devil was shot. They had preaching at intervals, in the day and night. In the evening, the Bishop of Louisville delivered a panegyric on the military in attendance, and the American flag, which, he said, having never been struck to any nation, was now permitted to commingle in the worship of God, and for the first time to wave before the altar. Had this been the 4th day of July, the birthday of freedom, the day which Americans delight to honor, and that which is the first in the hearts of the people, the American Eagle would have been furled in its sacred repository until the next day; which has always been the practice in our country, when the fourth of July came on the Sabbath. During the morning, a disturbance occurred, through the instrumentality of a drunken man in the gallery, and some one cried out that the gallery was giving way, which caused an instant rush, for a moment, to the windows and doors; but it was soon discovered to be a false alarm, when quiet was restored. Some ladies and children were trampled under foot; one fainting, and two women leaped out of the second story windows; but they fortunately escaped, one out of joint. I believe no other accident happened during the consecration. Never before have I witnessed in America, such a glowing desecration of the Holy Sabbath, inasmuch that several Roman Catholics disapprove of it.

AN AMERICAN CATHOLIC.

From the Boston Recorder.

"PUBLIC OPINION."

"The public is composed of individuals. The opinions of the individuals who compose the public, is public opinion. When the opinions and consequent practices of those individuals, generally, are wrong, it is proper to try to correct them. This is changing public opinion."

Very well. That is true and safe doctrine.—When public opinion is wrong, go among the individuals who compose that public, and by presentment of proper considerations, change their opinions.—But there are various other ways of doing the work, which we do not like so well. We must therefore let the reader into some secrets of the "art, trade, and mystery" of public opinion-making.

Suppose that the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions—we use the Board as an example, because its character is above suspicion—on one will imagine for a moment, that we meant to let the Board be guilty of such proceedings; suppose, then, that the American Board wishes to give a mighty impulse to missionary operations in England, for the conversion, by the labors of American Missionaries, of all English Episcopalians into congregationalists.

Suppose that, for this purpose, get up a meeting at Park street. The number present is just 27. The subject is proposed for discussion; but mind, the discussion must be all on one side, for the object of the meeting is, to "make an impression,"—to "give an impulse," and those who have any thing to say but "go ahead," must hold their tongues. It is a meeting of the friends, and not of the enemies of the cause; and those who question its wisdom or holiness, have no business there; unless, indeed, they will sit still and be counted during the meeting, and promise to tell no tales afterwards. The speakers, if they do not quite like all the resolutions, must manage that affair with their understanding and consciences, as well as they can. Their business is, not to mend the plan but to push it forward; and of course they must say such things, and such only, as are fitted for that purpose. As to voting, why, the real question is, not what each one thinks of the resolution, before meeting, but, the real question is, indeed, no question at all; for the object of the meeting is, to "make an impression," and "give an impulse," by a unanimous vote; so that the voters have only to say "aye," or up with their hands, as the fashion may be. The next morning, there comes out in the newspapers,

"MEETING AT PARK STREET."

"At a numerous and respectable meeting, &c.—it was unanimously resolved, &c. Mr. — spoke with overwhelming power. Mr. — &c. We are glad to see this unequivocal demonstration of public opinion in favor of the enterprise."

Now, we do not believe that the American Board ever were guilty of such doings; nor do we know that such things ever took place at Park street; but we do know that such things have been done in this Western world. We do know that such "packed" public meetings have been held. We do know that when men who doubt the wisdom of the proposition measure, whatever it may be, are present and express their doubts, they are complained of as intruders, and that in some cases, they are informed before hand, that their presence would only embar-

ass the meeting; and that, in other cases, the invitations are circulated privately, only to such as are known to be in favor of the proposed movement.

We grant, that all this, mentioned in this last paragraph, is well enough, if it is done or avowed before the world, so that every body knows just what it amounts to. But certainly, such a meeting, or forty such meetings, are no evidence at all of "public opinion." It is evidence only of the opinion of those who go from place to place and hold the meetings. And yet, enterprises, claiming to be moral and religious, have been set in motion, and have been urged upon the churches by the pretence that "public opinion" sanctioned them, when there was no evidence of the existence of that public opinion, but such packed meetings and speeches for "impression."

Such are some of the first steps in the manufacture of artificial public opinion. More anon.

The above description we believe is applicable to vastly more things, and more meetings, than one.—We fully believe it is a life picture of very many of the meetings held for the ostensible object of starting or promoting some benevolent object, in the discussion of which, to stop to inquire, is to draw upon one's self the charge of hostility to good things—hostility to "public opinion."

We believe it is a true description even of many of the meetings held to give an increased momentum to things long in vogue, and which are declared as were the original parts of creation, "very good," both in their nature and management; and all because no one who doubts, has the hardihood to express them, or give his reasons, well knowing that he will be branded an enemy of good things, or at war with "public opinion."

We rejoice to see this subject thus brought forward; it is in excellent hands, and we hope the editor will follow it up till the public shall be disabused of opinions thus palmed upon it by packed meetings got up for effect.

We learn that the Baptist church and society in Kennebunk, have given a call to Mr. Thomas O. Lincoln, of Boston, recently from the Theological School at Newton, to become their pastor, and that his ordination will take place on the second Wednesday of December in the afternoon.

For the Secretary.

TERMS OF COMMUNION.

Mr. Editor.—Among the various discussions and controversies which have agitated the Christian world, I have always remained silent, believing that a vast amount of precious time has been worse than lost by the many who have engaged in controversy.—But I noticed a lengthy communication in the Secretary of Nov. 1, on the "Terms of Communion," by "Priscilla," upon which I feel disposed to make a few remarks.

I believe, with your correspondent, that with the scriptures for our guide, the terms of communion are sufficiently clear and plain, and that the communion is an ordinance of the church. But I apprehend that some definite meaning should be attached to the so often repeated phrase "Communion." I believe that all denominations generally agree that it is an outward and visible expression of our union with Christ, and interest in his sufferings; and also of unity with each other as members of the visible church of Christ. If these views are correct, it must be evident that communion and fellowship are but different names for the same thing. It is then to commune with any body of professing Christians, without fellowshiping the precepts and practice of such body. It is a fact obvious to all, that Baptists and Presbyterians differ respecting the very ordinance that "Priscilla" makes the door of admission to visible church relation. Therefore, as the communion is a church ordinance, and "baptism, (i. e. immersion,) is the visible door into the church, I cannot see the propriety of the statement of "Priscilla," in reference to communion with Presbyterians. I had always supposed the church in its visible order was founded upon the principle of visible unity, and that the body was to obey the command of the Head of the church, and withdraw from every member that walks contrary to the institutions of Christ. The logic of "Priscilla" is somewhat peculiar, and comports well with the course generally adopted in writing upon infant baptism, by those who attempt to support the practice. He states, that we should not exclude one of our own members for communion with Presbyterians. And why? Because (in his estimation) we fellowship other things that are sinful. It may be true, and if so, a cause of deep lamentation, that glaring deficiencies exist among Baptists, in respect to wholesome discipline. But is it right to make one fault an excuse for another? I think not. But says "Priscilla," "as the church to which I belong does not at any time sit at the table with unbaptized persons, my conscience (i. e. the conscience of the members of Baptist churches) is not involved. He has not violated the rules of our church relation." I would here ask "Priscilla" whether it would be right in Baptists, as a visible body, to fellowship Presbyterians in the violation of a positive institution, which, according to his own statement, is the door into the visible church. If not, is it right for a church to fellowship a member in that which the body cannot approve? If the above queries are consistently answered, I see not why every member of a Baptist church does not walk disorderly, when by communion with unbaptized persons, he does that which the body cannot consistently do. Therefore, as Presbyterians do not wait (in the view of "Priscilla," at least) according to the traditions received from Christ and his apostles, as respects a positive institution, which is the door into the visible church, it follows that Baptists cannot consistently do otherwise than to withdraw from them.

I think the above statements clearly show that "the sin of dividing Christ" does not lie at the door of a church which withdraws the hand of fellowship from every member which walks contrary to the body, or gospel church.

I think the policy (if I may be allowed the expression), of "Priscilla," is wrong and not right, crooked and not straight. He says, "if we ever all get right on this subject, it is certain that we shall be Baptists," and if he is correct, then Baptist churches exist in the original form and natural state of the visible church; and the divisions which exist, being produced by the introduction of error, can only terminate when the cause which produced them ceases. For my part, I have reason to think that the views of Baptists in relation to the ordinance of baptism, will suffer nothing by the progress of light; experience has already proved the contrary. I very much regret, therefore, that sentiments should be advanced and advocated by those who profess to be Baptists, the tendency of which is to weaken the bonds of union amongst their own denomination. If Baptists will stand shoulder to shoulder, and maintain the truth, they have nothing to fear and much to expect from the "progressive increase of light, and the consequent abandonment of practices, which, however justifiable and necessary they may have for a long time appeared, are now found to be wrong"—and when all denominations

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VOLUME X

THE CHRISTIAN SECRETARY

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From

My Dear Son: I find that two years ago, I fear you were ten days in Frankfort, Ky. I than otherwise, and as I was to the &c. I was most My time was spent my last to you of this city. The people in proportion on the subject, any proofs of the Kentucky Louisville last was a very pleasant terminated to do me destitute in their more systematic Since my arrival "Register," an New York State Conventions of satisfaction brethren in that sense.

The Convention session in this city pointed to preach get, of New York very good accept preach not course &c. There was Rhode Island, N. Ohio, Kentu Indiana, and a reg The Hon. J. L. L. chairman, and W. W. C. Quincy, session continued much interest an with a convention owned, the inter divine benediction was formed with ment of the rising antichrist rears the I hope light will noon day, and the true doctrines

The Home M support, and the united effort more try.

Brn. D. Rollins state of New York Board of Foreign Indians were of received ordination street church in follows:

Br. J. M. Peck singing and pray preached from York, led in the with bro. Cook, of Illinois, and gave the charge, presented the hat of Massachusetts the Board, and included the whole

The scene was gotten by many a w with no unannounced ladies from Coler, the instructive in the shadow of them all, and place to be glad

It is at length for the winter, the time that in the ous in the state about the first mountains into at least a month to the meeting the

I wish you, of please, to direct for the present. I hope often to remember daily sings to the church will be blessed in

With much

From

We hear much and "Old Divinity" shall never make us; nor spend of the fairest part I hope, as Scrib of heaven, and use to bring out of Let us declare th as we learn it, w Divinity. Let w with all fidelity, er they will for question of New the duties enjo ability we poss which we can b and hearts, and we preach.